

THE
KING'S
PIOUS
PROCLAMATION.
FOR

Encouragement of *PIETY* and *VERTUE*, and for Suppressing and Punishing of *Vice*, *Profaneness* and *Immorality*; With an Abbreviate of the Laws to that Purpose.

As Also,

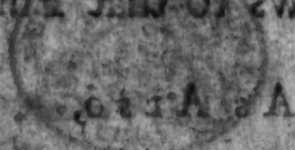
A COLLECTION of some ACTS of the *General Assembly* of the Church of *SCOTLAND*, Town-Council of *Edinburgh*, and Kirk-sessions of that City, to the same Effect.

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EDINBURGH,
Printed in the YEAR MDCCLXXVII

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PROCLAMATION
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Encouragement of PIETY and VERTUE, and for Suppressing and Punishing of Vice, Profaneness and Immorality; With an Abbreviation of the Laws to that Purpose.



A COLLECTION of some ACTS of the General Assembly of the Church of SCOTLAND, Town-Councils of Edinburgh, and Kirk-sessions of that City to the same Effect.

Printed in the YEAR MDCCXVII.
EDINBURGH.

ACT
OF THE
TOWN-COUNCIL
AGAINST
PROFANITY.



AT EDINBURGH, February
Tenth, One thousand se-
ven hundred and twenty
seven, The which Day,
the Lord Provost, Bailies,
Council and Deacons of
Crafts being convened in
Council, taking to Consideration the a-
bound-

bounding of Vice and Immorality, particularly horrid Cursing and Swearing, Breach of the LORD's Day, Drunkenness, Unclean-ness, Mocking at Religion and Religious Exercise, contrary to the Holy Word of the Great GOD, Laws and Acts of Parliament, His Majesty's Royal Proclamation for the Encouragement of Piety and Vertue, and for preventing and punishing of Vice, Profaneness and Immorality, and against many good Acts of the Town-Council of this Burgh; Do resolve to put the foresaid Acts, and His Majesty's pious Proclamation to punctual Execution; and therefore do invite and desire all good Christians in their several Stations to concur therein, and give due Information of Persons that shall be found guilty in the Premises, to the proper Officers of the Law; and the Constables are hereby required carefully to do their Duty, according to their Instructions: And the Baillies do declare, That they will give Attendance in the Council-chamber every Day in the Week, at proper Hours, except the LORD's Day, to hear and give Judgment in such Complaints as shall be made to them. And that all concerned may the better know their Duty in the Premises, ordains, That His Majesty's Proclamation above-

(5)
abovementioned, with the Collections of the
Acts of Parliament and Town-council, and
others formerly Printed, be Reprinted,
according to the Act of the Town-council,
dated the Twenty second Day of *June*,
One thousand seven hundred and nine, and
to be publickly sold, that Magistrates, Mi-
nisters, Elders, Deacons, Constables, and o-
thers concerned may have Copies the more
readily at Hand. And appoints that His
Majesty's Proclamation, with these Presents,
be read from the Pulpit upon the nineteenth
Day of *February* Instant. Extracted by,

ADAM WATT.



78
By the KING,

A
PROCLAMATION,

*For the Encouragement of Piety and Vir-
tue, and for the preventing and pu-
nishing Vice, Profaneness, and Im-
morality.*

ADAM WATTS
GEORGE R.

WE most Seriously and Religiously Con-
sidering, That it is an Indispensible
Duty on Us, to be Careful, above all other
Things, to Preserve and Advance the Ho-
nour and Service of Almighty God, and to
Discourage and Suppress all Vice, Profane-
ness, Debauchery and Immorality, which
are so highly Displeasing to God, so great
a Reproach to Our Religion and Govern-
ment, and (by Means of the frequent ill
Examples of the Practices thereof) have so
fatal a Tendency to the Corruption of many
of Our Loving Subjects, otherwise Religi-
ously and Virtuously Disposed, and which
(if

(if not timely Remedied) must justly draw down the Divine Vengeance on Us and Our Kingdoms; We also humbly Acknowledging, That we cannot expect the Blessing and Goodness of Almighty GOD (by whom Kings Reign) and on which We entirely Rely to make Our Reign Happy and Prosperous to Our Self and Our People, without a Religious Observance of GOD's Holy Laws: To the Intent therefore that Religion, Piety, and good Manners may (according to our most Hearty Desire) Flourish and Increase under our Administration and Government, We have thought fit, by the Advice of our Privy-Council, to Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discountenance and Punish all Manner of Vice, Profaneness and Immorality in all Persons of whatsoever Degree or Quality within this Our Realm, and particularly in such as are Employed near Our Royal Person; and that for the greater Encouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all Occasions, Distinguish Persons of Piety and Virtue by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And We do Expect and Require that all Persons of Honour, or in Place of Authority will give good Example by their own Virtue and Piety,

ety, and to their utmost contribute to their
 Discountenancing Persons of Dissolute and
 Debauched Lives, that they being by that
 Means reduced to Shame and Contempt,
 for their Loose and Evil Actions, and Be-
 haviour, may be thereby also Enforced the
 sooner to reform their ill Habits, and Pra-
 ctices, and that the visible Displeasure of
 good Men towards them, may, (as far as
 it is possible) supply what the Laws (pro-
 bably) cannot altogether prevent. And We
 do hereby strictly Enjoyn and Prohibit all
 Our Loving Subjects, of what Degree or
 Quality soever, from Playing on the Lord's
 Day at Dice, Cards, or any other Game
 whatsoever, either in publick or private Hou-
 ses, or other Place or Places whatsoever; and
 do hereby Require and Command them and
 every of them Decently and Reverently to at-
 tend the Worship of God on every LORD'S
 Day, on Pain of our highest Displeasure, and
 of being proceeded against with the utmost
 Rigour that may be by Law. And for the
 more Effectual Reforming of all such Per-
 sons, who, by Reason of their Dissolute
 Lives and Conversations, are a Scandal to
 our Kingdom, Our further Pleasure is, and
 We do hereby strictly Charge and Command
 all Our Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices

of the Peace; and all other Our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and all other Our Subjects, whom it may concern, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the Discovery, and the Effectual Prosecution, and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Profane Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Profanation of the LORD's Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral, or Disorderly Practices; and that they take Care also, Effectually to Suppress all Publick Gaming-Houses, and Places, and other Lewd and Disorderly Houses, and to put in Execution the Statute made in the Nine and Twentieth Year of the Reign of the late King Charles the Second, Intituled, *An Act for the better Observation of the LORD's Day, commonly called Sunday*; and also an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of the late King William the Third, Intituled, *An Act for the more Effectual Suppressing of Blasphemy and Profaneness*, and all other Laws now in Force for the Punishing and Suppressing any of the Vices aforesaid: And also to Suppress and Prevent all Gaming whatsoever in Publick or Private Houses on the LORD's Day, and likewise that they take Effectual Care to prevent all Persons keeping Taverns,

Chocolate-Houses, Coffee-Houses, or other Publick Houses whatsoever, from selling Wine, Chocolate, Coffee, Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, or Receiving or Permitting Guests to be or remain in such their Houses in the Time of Divine Service on the LORD's Day, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our Highest Displeasure. And for the more Effectual Proceeding herein, We do hereby Direct and Command all Our Judges of Assize, and Justices of the Peace, to give strict Charges at their respective Assizes and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons that shall presume to Offend in any the Kinds aforesaid, and also of all Persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in Putting the said Laws in Execution : And that they do, at their respective Assizes and Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, cause this Our Proclamation to be publicly Read in Open Court immediately before the Charge is given. And We do hereby further Charge and Command, every Minister in his respective Parish Church or Chappel, to Read or cause to be Read this Our Proclamation, at least Four Times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective Audi-

Auditories, to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Profaneness. And to the End that all Vice and Debauchery may be prevented, and Religion and Virtue Practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners, and others, who are Employed in Our Service by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take Care to avoid all Profaneness, Debauchery, and other Immoralities, and that by their own Good and Virtuous Lives and Conversations, they do set Good Examples to all such as are under their Care and Authority, and likewise take Care of, and inspect the Behaviour of all such as are under them, and Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid, as they will be answerable for the ill Consequences of their Neglect herein.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the Fifth Day of January 1715, and in the First Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

*List and Abbreviate of the Laws a-
gainst Profaneness, and for Suppres-
sing of Vice and Immorality.*

I*mprimis, Act 22. Charles Second, Parl. 1. Sess. 1. Intituled, Act against the Crime of Blasphemy. That whosoever, not being distracted in his Wits, shall rail upon, or Curse GOD, or any of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity, shall be proccessed before the Chief Justice, and being found Guilty, shall be punished with Death. As also whosoever shall deny GOD, or any of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity, and obstinately continue therein, being proccessed and found Guilty, shall be punished with Death. Item. The Act of the first Parl. W. and M. Session fifth, cap. Eleventh, ratifying the fore-said Act; And farder Statuting, That whoever hereafter shall in their Writing or Discourse, Deny, Impugn or Quarrel, Argue or Reason against the Being of GOD, or any of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity, or the Authority of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, or the Providence of GOD, in the Government of the World, shall for the first Fault be punished with*

with Imprisonment, ay and while they give publick Satisfaction in Sackcloth to the Congregation in which the Scandal was committed; And for the second Fault, the Delinquent shall be fined in a Years valued Rent of his real Estate, and the Twenty Part of his free personal Estate, the equal Half of which Fines to be applied to the Poor of the Parish where the Crime shall be committed, and the other Half to the Informer, besides his being imprisoned, ay and while he again make Satisfaction as above. And for the third Fault, he shall be punished by Death, as an obstinate Blasphemer. And all Magistrates and Ministers of the Law, and Judges in this Kingdom, are Authorized and Required to put this Act in Execution as to the first Fault, as are all Sheriffs, Stewarts, Baillics of Bailliarics and Regalities and their Deputs, and Magistrates of Burghs, to put the same in Execution as to the second Fault; Remitting the Execution thereof as to the third Fault, to the Lords of Her Majesty's Justiciary: *Secundo*, All Laws and Acts of Parliament made against Cursing and Swearing, as Act 2. Mary, Parl. 5. Cap. 16. whereby tis Statute, That whosoever swears abominable Oaths, and detestable Execrations, shall be

punish

punished with the pecuniary Mulcts, and o-
 ther Pains contained in the said A^c: A^c
James VI. Parl. 7. Cap. 103. Ratifying the
 foresaid A^c, with an Augmentation of the
 Pains; and that Censors be appointed in the
 Market-place of all Burrows, and other pub-
 lick Fairs, with Power to put the Swearers
 of abominable Oaths in Ward, while they
 have paid the said Pains, and find Surety to
 abstain in Time coming, and that by Di-
 rection and Commission of the Sheriffs, Stew-
 arts, Baillics, Provosts, Baillics of Burrows,
 Lords of Regalities, and other ordinary Of-
 ficers; and that all House-holders delate to
 the Magistrates, the Names of the Trans-
 gressors of this present A^c within their Hou-
 ses, that they may be punished, under the
 Pain to be esteemed and punished, as Offen-
 ders themselves; And that if the said Ma-
 gistrates be remiss or negligent in the Execu-
 tion of this A^c, they shall upon Complaint
 be called before Us, and Our Privy Council,
 and committed to Ward during Pleasure,
 and find Surety under great Pains, at Our
 Sight, for the exact Diligence in executing
 the said A^c thereafter. *Act. Charles II.*
Parl. 1. Sess. 1. Cap. 19. Ratifying and
 Approving all Acts of Parliament against all
 manner of Cursing and Swearing; And far-
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der declaring, That each Person who shall Blaspheme, Swear or Curse, shall be liable in the Pains following; Each Nobleman in Twenty pound *Scots*, each Baron in Twenty Merks, each Gentleman, Heritor or Burghs in Ten Merks, each Yeoman in Forty shilling *Scots*, each Servant in Twenty shilling *toties quoties*, each Minister in the fifth Part of his Years Stipend; and if the Party Offender be not able to pay the Penalties foresaid, then to be exemplarily punished in his Body, according to the Merit of his Fault: And this Act is again Ratified, *Charles II. Parl. 2. Sess. 3. Cap. 22.* which contains a distinct and particular Method, how and by whom it shall be execute. *Tertio*, All Laws and Acts of Parliament for Observation of the Sabbath or LORD's Day, as Act *James VI. Parl. 6. Cap. 71.* That there be no Markets nor Fairs holden upon the Sabbath-day, nor yet within the Kirk or Kirk-yards that Day, nor any other Day; and that no Handy-labour be used upon the Sabbath-day, under the Pain of Ten shilling *Scots*. And that no Gaming, Playing, passing to Taverns and Ale-houses, or selling of Meat or Drink, or wilful remaining from the Parish-kirk in Time of Sermon, or Prayers, upon the Sabbath-day be used, under

der the Pains of Twenty shilling Scots, and who refuse, or are unable to pay the said Pains, shall be put and holden in the Stocks, or such other Ingynne devised for publick Punishment by the Space of Twenty four Hours; And this Act, as to the discharging of Fairs and Markets holden on Sabbath-days, Ratify'd *James VI. Parl. 13. Cap. 159.* and again Ratified against those who prophane the Sabbath-day, by selling or presenting Goods to be sold upon the said Day; and the Pain of the Third Transgression, declared to be Escheat of their hail Goods, and Punishment of their Persons at Our Will, *Ja. VI. Parl. 14. Cap. 198. Item, Act 18. Ch. II. Parl. 1.* Intituled, *Act for the due Observation of the Sabbath Day*, Ratifying and Approving all former Acts of Parliament made for Observation of the Sabbath-day, and against the Breakers thereof, and discharging all going of Salt-pans, Mills or Kills, under the Pain of Twenty Pounds Scots, to be paid by the Heritors and Possessors thereof; and all Salmond-fishing, Hireing of Shearers, carrying of Loads, keeping of Markets, or using of Merchandise on the said Day, and all other Profanations thereof, under the Pain of Ten Pounds Scots, the one Half whereof to be paid by said

Fishes

Fisher, and Shearer hired, and the other Half by the Persons hiring; and if the Offenders be not able to pay the said Penalties, that he be exemplarily punished in his Body, according to the Merit of his Fault; and this Act ratified *Charles II. Parl. 2. Sess. 3. Cap. 12. Quarto, The Act Charles II. Parl. 1. Sess. 1. Cap. 20. Intituled; Act against Cursing and Beating of Parents*, whereby it is Statute, That whosoever, Son or Daughter, above the Age of Sixteen Years, not being distracted, shall beat or curse either their Father or Mother, shall be put to Death without Mercy; and such as are within the Age of Sixteen Years, and past the Age of Pupillarity, to be punished at the Arbitriment of the Judge, according to their deserving. *Quinto, All Acts against Drunkards and excessive Drinking, such as the Act James VI. Parl. 22. Cap. 20.* Whereby it is Statute, That all Persons convicted of Drunkenness, of haunting of Taverns and Ale-houses after Ten Hours at Night, or any Time of the Day, except in the Time of Travel, or for ordinary Refreshment, shall for the first Fault pay three Pounds, or if unable, or refusing, be put in Jogs or Prison for the Space of Six Hours; for the second Fault, Five Pounds, or if unable, or refusing,

refusing, to be kept in Stocks or Prison for
 the Space of twelve Hours; and for the
 third Fault, to pay Ten Pounds, or in Case
 foresaid, to be kept in Stocks or Prison
 for the Space of Twenty four Years: If
 they transgress thereafter, to be committed
 to Prison till they find Caution for their
 good Behaviour. *Item, The Act Charles II.*
Parl. 1. Sess. 1. Cap. 19. Ratifying all former
Acts against the Crime of excessive
Drinking, declaring, 'That whosoever shall
 ' drink into Excess, shall be liable, each
 ' Nobleman in 20 *L. Scots*, each Baron in
 ' 20 Merks, each Gentleman, Heritor or Bur-
 ' gesses in 10 Merks, each Yeoman in 40 *Shil-*
 ' *ling*, each Servant in 20 *Shilling Scots*, to-
 ' *ties quoties*, each Minister in the fifth Part
 ' of his yearly Stipend; and that the Offen-
 ' der unable to pay the foresaids Penalties, to
 ' be exemplarily punished in his Body, ac-
 ' cording to the Merit of his Fault.' *Sexto,*
 The Laws and Acts of Parliament made
 against Adulterers, as *Queen Mary, Parl.*
5. Cap. 20. whereby it is Statute, 'That
 ' manifest and incorrigible Adulterers after
 ' the Process of *Haly kirk*, swa far as the sa-
 ' men may extend, is used upon them, for
 ' their Disobedience and Contemtion, be
 ' denounced Rebels, and put to the Horn,
 and

' and all their Moveables in-brought as Ef-
 ' cheat, and no Appellation interponed frae
 ' the said Censures of *Haly-Kirk* to suspend
 ' the Horning. *Act Queen Mary, Parl. 9.*
Cap. 74. That all nottour and manifest
 ' Committers of Adultery be punished with
 ' all Rigor unto the Death, as well the
 ' Woman as the Man, after due Monition
 ' made to abstain frae the said nottour
 ' Crime, and that for other Adultery, the
 ' Laws and Acts made thereupon of before,
 ' be put to Execution with all Rigor. And
 the *Act James VI. Parl. 7. Cap. 105.*
 Whereby it is declared, ' That it shall be
 ' judged nottour and manifest Adultery,
 ' worthy of the Pain of Death, whoever has
 ' Bairns one or moe procreate betwixt the
 ' Persons Adulterers; or when they keep
 ' Company in Bed together notoriously
 ' known, or when they are suspect of Adul-
 ' tery, and duly admonished by the Kirk,
 ' to abstain and satisfy the Kirk by Repen-
 ' tance and Purgation, yet contemptuously
 ' refusing, are excommunicate for their Ob-
 ' stinacy. *Septimo*, All Laws and Acts of
 Parliament made against Fornication, as *Act*
James VI. Parl. 1. Cap. 13. Statuting,
 ' That who shall commit the filthy Vice of
 ' Fornication, shall for the first Fault, as

well the Man as the Woman; pay the
 Sum of Forty Pounds, or then both he
 and she shall be Imprisoned for the Space
 of eight Days, their Food to be Bread
 and Small-drink, and thereafter presented
 to the Market-place of the Town or Parish
 bareheaded, shall there stand fastened, that
 they may not remove for the Space of two
 Hours; For the second Fault, the Sum of
 One hundred Merks, or then the forenam-
 ed Days of their Imprisonment shall be
 doubled, their Food to be Bread and Wa-
 ter allennarly, and thereafter shall be
 presented to the Market-place, and the
 Heads of both the Man and the Woman
 to be Shaven. And for the Third Fault,
 One hundred Pounds, or else the above
 Imprisonment to be Tripled, their Food
 to be Bread and Water allennarly; and
 thereafter to be taken to the deepest and
 foulest Pool of Water of the Town or Pa-
 rish, and there to be thrice Doucked, and
 then banished the said Town and Parish
 for ever, and how oft any Person shall be
 convict thereafter of the said Vice of
 Fornication, that so oft the third Penalty
 be execute upon them. *Item, The Act*
Charles II. Parl. 1. Sess. 1. Cap. 28. Im-
powering the Justices of Peace to put in Exe-
cution

ention the Acts of Parliament, for punishing the Persons guilty of Fornication, and that they cause them pay the pecunial Sum following: Each Nobleman for the first Fault, four hundred Pounds; each Baron Two hundred Pounds, each other Gentleman or Burgess One hundred Pounds, every other Person of inferior Quality Ten Pounds *Scots Money*; and that these Penalties be doubled *toties quoties*, according to the Relapses, and Degrees of the Offence, and Quality of the Offenders: And that they be paid not only by the Man, but also by the Woman, according to her Quality, and the Degree of her Offence, the one without Prejudice of the other. *Item*, The said Act *Charles II. Parl. 1. Session 1. Cap. 38. statutes*; That the Justices of Peace put in Execution all Acts of Parliament for punishing all Persons, who shall be Mockers or Reproachers of Piety, or the Exercises thereof, and cause them pay the Penalties contained in the fore-mentioned Acts of Parliament against profane Swearing. *Item*, The Act of the first Parliament, King *William*, *Sess. 5. Cap. 13. Intituled, Act against Profanevess*, strictly requiring and enjoining that all Sheriffs and their Deputes, Stewarts and their Deputes, Baillies of Baillaries and Regalities, and their De-

putes, Magistrates of Burghs-Royal, and Justices of Peace within whose Bounds any of the said Sins of Cursing, Swearing, Drunkenness, Fornication, Profanation of the LORD's Day, and Mocking and Reproaching of Religion shall happen to be committed, to put the said Acts to exact and punctual Execution at all Times, without Necessity of any Dispensation, and against all Persons, whether Officers, Soldiers or others, without Exception; certifying, that such of the said Judges as shall refuse, neglect or delay to put the Laws made against the said Sins in Execution, upon Application of any Minister or Kirk-session, or any Person in their Name offering Information, and sufficient Probation, shall *toties quoties* be subject and liable to a Fine of an hundred Pound Scots, for which they may be pursued at the Instance of the Agent for the Kirk, or Minister of the Parish, by summary Process, without the Order of the Roll.

Item, The Twenty one Act of the second Session of the current Parliament, dated the Nineteenth of July, One thousand six hundred and ninety, Intituled, *Act anent Murdering of Children*, whereby it is statute, *That if any Woman shall conceal her being with Child during the whole Space, and shall*

not

not call for, and make Use of Help and Assistance in the Birth, the Child being found dead or amissing, the Mother shall be holden and repute the Murderer of her own Child, tho' there be no Appearance of Bruise or Wound upon the Body of the Child. All which Acts above-mentioned are hereby ordered to be published only for Superabundance, and the better Intimation of our Leiges, without the least Derogation to other Acts or Laws not published in this Matter.

ACT of Parliament against Profaneness.

January 31. 1701.

OUR SOVEREIGN LORD, for the better and more effectual repressing of Profaneness and Immorality, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, ratifies, renews and revives all former Laws and Acts of Parliament made against Drunkenness, Sabbath-breaking, Swearing, Fornication, Adultery, and all Manner of Uncleaness, Mocking and Reproaching Religion, and the Exercise thereof, and generally

rally all other Laws made against Profaneness, and particularly without Prejudice of the said Generality, ratifies and revives the Act of the ninth Parliament, Queen Mary, Cap. 74. Intituled, *Act anent Adultery*; As also the Act of the seventh Parliament, Ja. VI. Cap. 105. Intituled, *The Explanation of the Act touching notour and manifest Adultery*; and ordains the same to be put to strict and vigorous Execution in all Points; As also ratifies and approves the Acts following, viz. The Act of Parliament 1672, Intituled, *Act against Profaneness*, whereby all Members of His Majesty's Privy Council, or Lords of Session, with all Judges Ordinary, having their Residence, or Keeping Courts in any Parish, are ordained to execute, or cause execute the said Laws against such Delinquents therein, as shall be dilated to them by the Kirk-sessions or other Church Judicatories, with Power to the Kirk-session and Heritors to name a Collector of the Fines; As also, where none of the foresaid Persons in Authority reside, to nominate a Person resident within the Parish, whom they shall offer to the Judge Ordinary of the Bounds, to the End he may grant them a Deputation to the Effect foresaid; as likewise to modify and appoint such Fees to

the

the said Collectors out of the said Fines, as they shall find just; and that the Remainder of the said Fines be applied for the Use of the Poor, in Manner specified in the said Act. The Act of Parliament 1693, also intituled, *Act against Profaneness*, whereby every Presbytery within this Kingdom is empowered and ordained, to appoint one or more within their respective Bounds, to take Notice of all Vices and Immoralities, and to dilate and prosecute the Persons guilty, conform to the Tenor of the former Acts, and allowing to them out of the Fines, not only their whole Expences, but such Rewards as the Lords of Privy Council shall think fit; The Act 1695 likewise intituled, *against Profaneness*: Whereby all the Judges Ordinary and their Deputes, and all Justices of Peace within whose Bounds any of the said Offences shall happen, are authorized and enjoined to put the said Acts against Profaneness to exact and punctual Execution at all Times, without Necessity of any Dispensation, and against all Persons, whether Officers, Soldiers, or others, without Exception, with Certification, that any of the said Judges that shall refuse or neglect to put the said Laws in Execution, upon the Application of any Minister, Kirk-session, or

any Person in their Name, informing and offering sufficient Probation, he shall be liable and subject *toties quoties* to a Fine of One hundred Pounds *Scots*, for the Poor of the Parish where the Scandal happened; declaring that the Agent for the Kirk, the Minister or Kirk-session of the Parish, or any having their Warrant, shall have good Interest to pursue before the Lords of Session, any of the said Judges refusing or neglecting as said is, and that the said Refusal or Neglect shall be sufficiently proven by an Instrument under a Notar's Hand, and Witnesses subscribing and deponing, that the said Information was given, and Probation offered, as the said Act more fully bears. And, *lastly*, The Act 1696 also intituled, *Act against Profaneness*, in the hail Heads, Articles and Clauses thereof, all which Laws and Acts of Parliament, generally and particularly above-narrated, His Majesty with Advice and Consent foresaid, ordains to be put to strict and punctual Execution in all Points: And farther, All Ministers and Kirk-sessions, and Heritors concerned, are hereby required and ordained to do and act their Parts faithfully in the Premises, as they will be answerable; and in case any Person shall be excommunicate for not answer-

answering, or for not obeying and satisfying the Church, when processed before them for Profaneness and Immorality ; or in case that any Person, cited on the Account foresaid, shall be declared by the Church to be contumacious, then, and in either of these Cases, His Majesty, with Advice and Consent foresaid, *statutes and ordains*, That upon Application made by a Presbytery, Provincial Synod, or General Assembly, to His Majesty's Privy-Council, representing the same, the Lords of Privy-Council shall represent the said Matter to His Majesty, that he may be duly informed anent the foresaid Person found guilty or contumacious as said is, as a Person not fit to be employed, or continued in any Place of publick Trust, Civil or Military.



ACT of the General Assembly against Profaneness.

Edinburgh, April 16. 1694.

THE General Assembly of this National Church, Taking into serious Consideration, how much God is Dishonoured by the Impiety and Profaneness that aboundeth in this Nation, in profane and idle Swearing, Cursing, Sabbath-breaking, Neglect and Contempt of Gospel-Ordinances, Mocking of Piety and Religious Exercises, Fornication, Adultery, Drunkenness, Blasphemy and other Gross and Abominable Sins and Vices: And how much it concerns the Honour and Glory of GOD, that the same be Restrained and Suppressed, and that Virtue and Godliness be encouraged: And also what may be the Remedies of these detestable Sins; **DOETH** therefore Exhort and Require, That Ministers, and all who Fear **GOD,**

GOD, have on their Hearts, a deep Humbling and Soul-affecting Sense of these Evils; and be much in Prayer and Supplication before GOD on this Account. And that all the Ministers of this Church Preach plainly and faithfully against these Vices, and Denounce the threatned Judgments of GOD against such Evil Doers; and deal earnestly and much with their Consciences, to bring them to a Conviction and Sense of their Sin and Danger. As also the General Assembly appoints, That Church Judicatories do faithfully Exercise Church-Discipline against all such Scandalous Offenders, with that Gravity, Prudence and Meekness of Wisdom, as, by the Blessing of GOD, may prove an effectual Mean of Reforming and Recovering the Guilty, and of preventing the like Sins in Others.

And, farther, The General Assembly Requires that Care be taken in the Receiving of Servants, that they have Testimonials of their Honest and Christian Behaviour; And that the same be Required of all Others, who Flit and Remove from one Parish to another.

And also the General Assembly appoints, That the Ministers and Elders in each Congregation take Care that the Worship of
GOD

GOD be performed in the several Families thereof. And if any Family be found which neglecteth this necessary Duty, the Head of that Family is to be Gravely, Seriously and Earnestly Admonished, until he amend his Fault. And Recommends to Ministers and Kirk-Sessions, That none be Ruling Elders, who make not Conscience of this necessary and unquestionable Duty; And that no grossly Ignorant and Scandalous Person be admitted to the *Lord's Table*.

And likewise the General Assembly Recommends to all Ministers and Kirk-Sessions, That they carefully apply to the several Magistrates of their Bounds, that the Acts of Parliament against Profaneness, may be put in Execution, and particularly the Act of Parliament, *June 15. 1693*, Intituled, *Act against Profaneness*.

And lastly, The General Assembly Ordains that this present Act be publicly Read and Intimate in all Churches.



ACT

ACT anent *Family Wor-*
ship, and Censuring Rul-
 ing Elders and Deacons,
 who neglect the same.

At Edinburgh, Jan. 7. 1697.

THE General Assembly considering, how
 necessary a Duty it is, that the Wor-
 ship of GOD, and calling upon his Name
 be daily performed in all Families; Do Re-
 commend it to Ministers and Elders in each
 Congregation, to take Care thereof, and it
 being the Duty of all Ruling Elders, and
 Deacons to be Exemplary herein, the Assem-
 bly renews, and confirms the Act of Assem-
 bly 1694. made against Profaneness, Re-
 commending that none be Ruling Elders,
 who make not Conscience of this unquesti-
 onable Duty; And do likewise appoint, that
 in case any Elders or Deacons shall neglect
 to Worship GOD in their Families by
 them-

themselves, or others appointed for that Effect, that they be seriously admonished to amend, and if need be, rebuked for the same, and if notwithstanding of Admonitions and Rebukes of the Minister and other Elders, any Elder or Deacon continue obstinate in their Neglect; That such Elder or Deacon be removed from his Office by the Presbytery; And appoints this Act to be Read in all the Churches yearly; As also the said Thirteenth Act of the Assembly 1694, against Profaneness, and that upon the first Sabbath of May.



ACT of the General Assembly against *Profaneness*.

Edinburgh, *January 11. 1697.*

THE General Assembly of this National Church, taking to their most serious Consideration, That notwithstanding of the weighty Commands, and dreadful Threatnings contained in the Scriptures of Truth, and

and the many laudable Christian Laws of this Nation, and the Acts of the General Assemblies of this Church, against all Impiety and Profaneness; yet the open Outbreakings of Wickedness are not restrained, but GOD is daily dishonoured and provoked, the Profession of Christianity discredited, and the pernicious Infection of ill Example disseminated and spread abroad, by the abounding Scandals of profane and idle *Swearing, Cursing, Sabbath-breaking, profane Withdrawing from, and Contempt of Gospel Ordinances*; yea, opposing the dispensing of them by hindering the Planting of Churches, and discouraging the Endeavours of others for calling and fixing a faithful Gospel-Ministry among them, *Mocking of Piety and Religion, and the Exercises thereof, Fornication, Adultery, Drunkenness, Excessive Tipling, Deism, Blasphemy, and other gross abominable Sins*: And whereas, not only did the General Assembly, by their Act April 16. 1694, recommend to all Ministers and Kirk-sessions, carefully to apply to the several Magistrates of their Bounds, for putting the Acts of Parliament against Profaneness in Execution, but likewise this current Parliament hath by their Acts, Entituled, *Against Profaneness*, June 15. 1693, June 28.

28. 1695, and *October* 9. 1696, declared, That Ministers, Kirk-sessions and Presbyteries, shall by themselves, or others in their Name, have good Interest to apply for, and pursue the Execution of the saids Acts; and albeit Execution is ordained to pass at the Instance of any Person whatsoever; yet it being especially incumbent upon Ministers, and Church Judicatories to hold Hand thereto: Therefore, that this National Assembly may not be wanting to their Duty, in contributing their utmost Endeavours, for bearing down and punishing of all Immorality and Wickedness; They do, in the *first* Place, in the Aw and Dread of the Great GOD, who will not hold them guiltless that break any of his Commandments, Beseech, Warn, and Obtest all the People of this Church and Nation, to break off their Sins by Repentance, and seriously in the Fear of the LORD, to apply themselves to a Sober, Conscientious, Christian and Circumspect Walk in all Manner of Conversation, as becomes the Professors of the Glorious Gospel, of the blessed GOD, and of that Religion which is pure and undefiled, and as they would not incur the heavy Displeasure, and just Indignation of the Holy One, in being excluded for ever, from seeing his Face in Peace, and

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pull down his Temporal Judgments upon themselves, and upon the Land ; and next, They do require all the Ministers of this Church, freely and faithfully to preach against the forementioned enormous Sins, as the Crying Sins of the Time, that People may be brought to a Conviction and Sense of their Hainousness and Danger, and may refrain, not only for Fear, but from Conscience. And, farther, They do appoint, that Presbyteries and Kirk-sessions do faithfully and impartially exercise Church Discipline, against all such Scandalous Offenders, and use all suitable Means in dealing with their Consciences, to bring them to unfeigned Repentance and Reformation ; and they seriously recommend to Ministers and Members of Kirk-Sessions, from a true Zeal for God, to hold Hand to the delating, informing against, and punishing of all prophane Transgressors, without respect of Persons, by Civil Punishments, conform to the Acts of Parliament made in that Behalf, and that they record their Diligence in their Session Books, that the same may be seen by their Presbyteries, who are hereby required to make Enquiry therein, at their Visitation : And lest any may be found Backward in performing their respective Duties, from an Unwillingness to displease or disob-

lige Persons of Note, who may happen to be guilty ; the General Assembly earnestly Exhorts all Ministers and Elders, and all Christians to remember, That in this Matter they have to do with the great and terrible GOD, whose Honour is to be preferred, and whose Wrath is to be feared, before all other Considerations whatsoever ; and they Overture, that whatever Minister or Member of Session be found Faulty, in neglecting to pursue the foresaids Scandals in their Stations, the said Minister or Member of Session be complained of and censured by the Presbytery for the first Fault, and that the Censure be Recorded ; and that the second Negligence be declared to, and censured by the Synod ; And that for the Third Neglect they be censured by the Synod with Suspension, to be Recorded in the Synod Register. And albeit the General Assembly hath full Confidence in the Integrity and Zeal of all Honest Christian Magistrates, and that they will, with Firmness and Resolution, make Conscience of the Obligations of their Office, and faithfully discharge the Trust committed to them by GOD, and the Supreme Authority of this Nation ; Yet, because a Slackness, or Backwardness may fall out in some particular Places, and there hath been hi-

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thereto a most lamentable Defectiveness, in putting the Laws against Profaneness to Execution, and some have refused to give Deputations and Commissions for that End, to Persons who have been duly nominated and presented to them : Therefore the General Assembly doth Recommend to each Minister or Kirk-Session, who shall find Cause to complain of a Magistrate for Negligence in Executing the said Laws, or for refusing Deputation and Commission to such Persons, as are duly elected and presented to them (from Parishes, where there is no ordinary Magistrate residing) conform to the abovementioned Act of Parliament, *October 9. 1696.* That they acquaint their Presbyteries therewith, and that the said Presbytery, having used all previous Means in dealing with the Consciences of the Magistrate, without any good Effect, do with the Kirk Agent thereafter pursue the said negligent, or refractory Magistrate, before the Lords of Council or Session, according to the foresaid Acts of Parliament. And, *lastly*, That these Presents be read in all Churches within the Kingdom Twice a Year from the Pulpit, *to wit*, upon the first Sabbath after *Whitsunday* and *Martimus* yearly.

ACT against Profaneness.

At Edinburgh, January 30, 1699.

THe General Assembly, taking to their Consideration, the Overtures against Profaneness, past by the last Assembly, *January 24, 1698, Sess. 15.* and having heard the Report of Commissioners present, from the several Presbyteries of this National Church, to whom the Consideration of the said Overtures were recommended; And the General Assembly being well and ripely advised thereunto, did, by their Vote, and hereby do approve of these Overtures after-mentioned, whereof the Tenor follows.

1. The General Assembly considering the Lamentable Growth of Profanity, Ignorance and Irreligion, that is too manifest in this Land, and the woful Decay of the Life and Power of Godliness, with the small Success of the Gospel, that's to be observed every where at this Time; the General Assembly, in a deep Sense of these Things, and for the Remeeding of them, do in the first Place, in
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the Aw and Dread of GOD, Besetch, Exhort and Require all Ministers, by the Coming of our Lord *Jesus Christ*, and our gathering together unto Him, That they take heed to themselves, and to their Doctrine, and endeavour to be Ensamples to the People, in all Piety, Purity, Holiness, in all manners of Conversation.

2. That they be Frequent and Fervent in Secret Prayer, for themselves, and the People committed to them, joining sometime Fasting with Prayer. And the General Assembly recommends to Ministers, and Elders in their several Parishes, and Ministers in their several Presbyteries, to meet sometimes together in their Parishes, and Presbyteries respective, for private Fasting and Prayer and Conference anent the State of the Church, and that Part of it in which they have special Interest, with respect to the Growth or Decay of Godliness, and Success of the Gospel therein.

3. That Presbyteries be more accurate in managing their privy Censures, and that a Day be set apart to that Purpose only, and spent in Fasting and Prayer together.

4. That Presbyteries be very Cautious, in admitting Intranees to the Ministry, and be Accurate and Exact in the Trial, not only

of their Literature, but of their Piety, Prudence, and former Godly Conversation, and Walk.

5. That Ministers be painful in Catechising, frequent in Visiting of Families, and in private Personal Conference with these of their Charge, about the State of their Souls, and that Ministers be more frequent in Administration of the LORD'S Supper, and always Edifying in their Converse and Discourse, and that they deal with Heads of Families to engage them to Piety, and a Care to reform their Families, and to set up, and to keep up the Worship of GOD therein; And in particular, that Ministers endeavour, by all prudent and gaining Gospel Methods, to engage Persons of Honour and Power to fall in Love with Holiness, and reckon it, as indeed it is, their greatest Honour; And that in dealing with such of them, as are Vicious, an Humble and yet Holy Boldness and Zeal, be used in admonishing them, in order to their Recovery: And that herein Presbyteries appoint some others of their Number, to concur with the Minister of the Place as may be most for Edification.

6. The General Assembly Recommends to the Kirk-sessions and Presbyteries, the Vigorous

rous impartial, and yet prudent Exercise of Church Discipline against all Immorality, especially Drunkenness and Filthiness, Cursing and Swearing, and profaning the LORD's Day, which too much abound : And that they apply to the Magistrate for the Execution of the good Laws made against Immorality and Profaneness.

7. That seeing it is observed, that in Burghs, especially these of the greatest Resort, as *Edinburgh*, many sit too late in Taverns, especially on the Saturdays-night, and Men of Business pretend they do it for Relaxation of their Minds; through which some neglect the publick Worship on the LORD's Day in the Forenoon, and others attend the Worship drowsily : Therefore the General Assembly recommends to all Ministers, where such sinful Customs are, to represent to the People, both publicly and privately, the Sin and Evil thereof, and to call them to redeem that Time, which they have free from Business, and to employ it for Converse with God about their Souls State, and in Preparation for the Sabbath, which will yield more Delight than all sensual Pleasures can do.

And the General Assembly beseecheth, and exhorteth all Magistrates of Burghs, to

be assistant to Ministers, in Enquiring into, and Reforming such Abuses.

And likewise, The General Assembly receives the Act of the General Assembly, dated the 11th January 1697. Sess. 8. Entitled, *Act against Profaneness*, and approves of the Overture therein contained, anent Censuring such Ministers and Members of Sessions, as are negligent in pursuing Scandals.

And the General Assembly Recommends and Enacts the punctual Observation of the saids Acts and Overtures, and Obedience thereto by all Presbyteries, Ministers, Elders and Sessions, as they are concerned, in their several Stations, as they will be answerable.



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ACT of Town-Council against *Profaneness.*

Edinburgh, the 9th August, 1693.

THE which Day the Lord Provost, Baillies, Council and Deacons of Crafts, Ordinary and Extraordinary, being convened in Council, considering that the Profanation of the LORD's Day, excessive Drinking and Drunkenness, Profane Swearing and Cursing, and other Immoralities, are discharged by several Acts of Parliament, under certain Penalties therein contained; and particularly, That by the third Act of the Sixth Parliament of King *James VI.* It is Statute and Ordained, That there be no Markets holden, nor Handy-labouring, or Working used on the Sabbath Day, or passing to Ale-houses, or Taverns, or selling of Meat or Drink, or willful remaining from their Parish Church in Time of Sermon, under the respective Penalties

Penalties contained in the said A^ct, whic
A^ct is Ratified by the first A^ct of th
thirteenth Parliament, and by the Sixth A^ct
of the fourteenth Parliament of the said King
James, as also particularly mentioned in
the eighteenth A^ct of the first Session of
the first Parliament of King *Charles* II.
whereby all former A^cts made for Observa-
tion of the Sabbath Day are Ratified, and
all keeping Markets, or using any Sort of
Merchandise on the said Day, and all o-
ther Profanation thereof, is expressly dis-
charged, under the Penalty of Ten Pound
Scots at least: And if the Party Offen-
der be not able to pay the Penalty fore-
said, then to be exemplarily punished in his
Body, according to the Merit of his Fault:
Likeas, by the A^ct *James* VI. *Parl.* 22.
Cap. 20. It is Statute, That Persons con-
vict of Drunkenness, and haunting of Ta-
verns and Ale-houses, after Ten of the Clock
at Night, or any Time of the Day, except
the Time of Travel, or for Refreshment, pay
for the first Fault, three Pounds *Scots*, or be
put in Joggs or Goal Six Hours; for the
second, five Pounds, or to be put in Joggs
or Goal Twelve Hours: And for the third,
ten Pounds, or to be put in Stocks or Goal
Twenty four Hours. And if they thereafter

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Transgress, to be put in Goal, till they find Caution for their better Behaviour. And that by the Act *Charles II. Parl. 1. Sess. 1. Cap. 19.* All former Acts against Drunkenness are Ratified. And it is farther statute, That who drink to Excess shall pay; the Nobleman Twenty Pounds, the Baron Twenty Merks, the Gentleman, Heritor or Burgeſs Ten Merks, the Yeoman Forty Shilling, and the Servant Twenty Shilling *toties quoties*, and the Minister the fifth Part of his Stipend, and that those unable to pay be punished in their Persons; both which Acts are again ratified, *Charles II. Sess. 3. Act 22.* Likeas, by the Act *Queen Mary, Parl. 5. Cap. 16.* Prophane Swearing of abominable Oaths, and detestable Excrations is forbid, under the particular Pains therein exprest, which Pains, arising gradually for the repeated Transgressions, do at Length end in Banishment, or Imprisonment for Year and Day; which Act is by the Act, *Ja. VI. Parl. 7. Cap. 103.* ratified with an Augmentation of the Pains: And it is further statute, That Magistrates to Burgh and Landwart, appoint Censors in publick Markets and Fairs, with Power to exact the said Pains; and that Housholders delate Offenders within their House, under the Pain to be esteemed

esteemed as Offenders themselves. And the said Acts against profane Cursing and Swearing are again ratified, *Cha. II. Parl. 1. Sess. 1. Act 19.* whereby it is further statute, That who shall Blaspheme, Swear or Curse, shall pay, the Noblemen Twenty Pounds, the Baron Twenty Merks, the Gentleman, Heritor or Burges Ten Merks, the Yeoman Forty Shilling, the Servant Twenty Shilling *toties quoties*, and the Minister the Fifth Part of his Stipend, and the Persons insolvent to be punished in their Persons; which Acts are of new ratified, *Cha. II. Sess. 3. Cap. 22.* All which Acts are again ratified and revived by the 40th *Act* of the 3d *Sess.* of this current Parliament, and ordained to be put to strict Execution with all Diligence; notwithstanding of all which Acts, and the most holy and expresse Law of God, the Foundation thereof, and the many Promises and Threatnings contained in his Word, for the establishing the same; yet it is most manifest, and cannot be enough regreted, that the aforesaid Transgressions and Excess do every where abound, to the Dishonour of God, and the Reproach of the Protestant Religion: Therefore the Lord Provost, Bailies and Council of this Burgh, do hereby declare, that they will be careful to see the fore-

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foresaid Acts of Parliament strictly observed, and the Pains thereof exacted, and execute within all their Bounds and Suburbs, without Exception; And for the better Observance of the foresaid Acts made against the Profanation of the LORD's Day, they strictly prohibit and discharge, all Persons whatsoever within this City or Suburbs, to brew, or to work any other Handy-work or Labour on the LORD's Day, or to be found on the Streets standing or walking idly, or to go in Company, or vague to the *Castle-hill*, publick Yards or Fields on that Day, at any Time thereof: And discharge all Persons to go to Ale-houses or Taverns, for eating or drinking in Time of Sermon, or unseasonably or unnecessarily at any Time on the LORD's Day; And all Keepers of Taverns and Ale-houses, to sell any Time of the said Day to the said Persons, any Meat or Drink to be eaten or drunken otherwise than as above exprest; As also all Persons to bring in Water from the Wells to Houses on that Day, in greater Quantities than single Pints; certifying all such Persons who shall contravene this Presents; as also all Parents and Masters, who shall not restrain their Children, Apprentices and Servants, that they shall be fined in Ten Pounds Scots for every

every such Deed of Contravention; and if the Party Offender be not able to pay the Penalty foresaid, then he or she shall be exemplarily punished in his or her Body, according to the Merit of the Fault. And appoints this Act to be printed and published, that none may pretend Ignorance.



ACT anent Women-Servants, who have been guilty of *Uncleanness*, being in Taverns, &c.

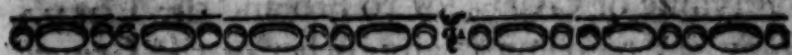
Edinburgh, December 13. 1699.

THE which Day, the Lord Provost, Baillies and Council of this City considering, That by several Acts made, and Proclamations emitted by them, pursuant to many Acts of Parliament, and Acts of the General Convention of the Royal-Burrows, the Keeping and Employing of Women-Servants for Retailing Liquors in Taverns, Cellars, Drinking Shops, and others Places where

where Liquors are sold by Retail, is peremptorily discharged, as a great Snare to the Youth, and Occasion of Lewdness and Debauchery ; And also considering, that the Persons concerned have been so far from giving Obedience to these laudable Acts and Proclamations, that on the contrary, they have entertained, and yet keep in their Service, for Vending and Retailing Ale and other Liquors in Cellars and other Places above-mentioned, Women who have been guilty of Fornication, which Practice hath yet a more dangerous Tendency to the corrupting of Youth, and will, in all Probability, occasion a great Growth of Immorality, which doth already too much abound, to the Dishonour of God, and Scandal of Christianity ; Therefore the Magistrates and Town-Council of this City, for Suppressing and Restraining such dangerous and evil Customs in the mean Time, until Methods shall be fallen upon for putting in Execution the foresaid Acts against Retailing Liquors by Women-Servants in general, and without any Prejudice thereto : Do peremptorily discharge all Vintners and Taverners, Inn-keepers and others, to employ and keep in their Service, such Women as have been guilty of Fornication,

or shall be guilty thereof in Time coming, for Retailing Wine, Ale or other Liquors, in Houses, Shops, Cellars and other Places, within this City and Suburbs, under the Penalty of 100 Pounds *Scots*, to be paid by the Masters or Mistresses where such Servants should be found, *toties quoties*, they being conscious of the said Guilt of their Servants, attour the Servants Banishment : And Ordains such Masters and Mistresses as have such Servants for Retailing, at present, to Remove them from the said Service immediately, under the Penalty foresaid ; Certifying all such Masters and Servants who shall contraveen, that the foresaid Penalties shall be Inflicted and Exacted without Abatement, and that the Masters and Mistresses shall be liable from such Time as their Knowledge of their Servants Guilt, after this Proclamation, shall be proven ; and separately, that they shall be Repute to have known, from and after due and just Intimation of the said Guilt, made by the Elders or Church Treasurer. And to the End this Act may be more effectually and punctually Observed, the Council recommends to the Elders and Deacons, and Church Treasurer for the Time, to search their respective Bounds termly, or oftner as Need requires, that

that they may Discover such Servant Women ; and if any be found, to delate them and their Master or Mistress to the Magistrates, to be fined and punished accordingly. And appoints this Act to be published in the usual Manner, and Printed, that none may pretend Ignorance.



PROCLAMATION against *Immoralities.*

Edinburgh, December 27: 1700.

THe which Day, The Lord Provost, Baillies, Council and Deacons of Crafts, Ordinary and Extraordinary, being convened in Council, taking to their serious Consideration, the great Encrease and Growth of Cursing, Swearing, Sabbath-breaking, and other gross Immoralities in this Place, to the Dishonour of GOD, and Scandal of Religion ; And they being very desirous to suppress the same, to the utmost of their Power : *Therefore*, in Obedience to the Law of GOD, the several

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good Laws and Acts of Parliament made against Profaneness, an Abstract whereof is Read in the Churches termly, and pursuant of several Acts of the Town Council, for suppressing the said Immoralities ; *Do hereby strictly Prohibite and Discharge*, all Persons whatlomever within their Bounds, to presume to Curse, Swear, or Blaspheme the Holy Name of GOD, or to Profane the LORD's Day, or to commit any other of the Crimes prohibite in the said Acts, with Certification, the Contraveeners shall be proceeded against, without Feed or Favour, conform to the said Laws made thereanent, and that the Penalties of the said Laws and Acts shall be inflicted and exacted without Abatement, and that such as are unwilling, or unable to pay the Pecuniary Mulcts, shall be set in Pillory or Joggs made for that Effect, or otherwise punished according to Law. And Ordains thir Presents to be proclaimed by Tuck of Drum in the usual Manner, and Printed ; And thereafter affixed in the ordinary Places for further Publication.



ACT



A C T for preventing the Profanation of the *Lord's* *Day.*

Edinburgh, February 28. 1701.

THe which Day, the Lord Provost, Bail-
lies, Council and Deacons of Crafts,
being convened in Council, in Prosecution
of several Acts of Parliament, Acts and Sta-
tutes of this Burgh, and for the more effec-
tual preventing of the Profanation of the
LORD'S Day, Ratifie and Approve all
former Acts made against the same, and
other Immoralities; and particularly, *An*
Act against Profaneness, dated the 9th *Aug-*
ust 1693, and another Act dated the Thir-
teenth Day of *December* 1699. And do
further Prohibite and Discharge all Keepers
of Taverns, Ale-houses, Victualling-houses,
or Cellars within this Burgh and Suburbs
thereof, to entertain any Persons, or fur-
nish any kind of Drink unto them with-
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in Doors at any Time of the LORD's Day, with this Exception, that Victualling-houses may furnish Victuals and so much Drink as shall be necessary thereto betwixt Sermons, and betwixt Six and Eight of the Clock at Night allenarly, and that only to Strangers, or such as have not Houses of their own in the Place, under the Penalty of Half a Rex Dollar, to be paid by the Master or Mistress of the House, for each Person that shall be entertained therein as said is; And this but Prejudice to the exacting of the Penalties contained in the Acts of Parliament against Drunkenness, from the Persons guilty of excessive or unreasonable Drinking on that or any other Day: And in like Manner, they do strictly prohibit and discharge all Persons whatsoever to carry through the Streets from House to House any Kind of Cloaths, Periwigs, Shoes or other Apparel, at any Time of the LORD's Day, under the Penalty foresaid, to be paid by the Master of the Servant, or any other that shall be found to have employed him in this Work, discharging also hereby Barbers or others to Trim or Shave any Person either in their own Houses, Shops or elsewhere, at any Time of the said Day, and that under the Penalty foresaid, to be paid

paid by the Barber for each Transgression committed by himself, or his Apprentice or Servant, declaring always, That if any Barber or his Servants shall be found carrying about from Place to Place any of their Utensils for Trimming on the said Day, they shall be holden and repute as guilty, and liable to the Fine as above-mentioned: And sick-like, they do strictly prohibit and discharge all Persons whatsoever, to stand Idly on the Streets, or walk in the Fields, or upon the *Castlehill* on the LORD's Day, under the Penalty foresaid. And ordains thir Presents to be printed and published in the usual Manner.





ACT anent the suppressing of *Sin*, with Instructi- ons to the KIRK-TREA- SURERS.

Edinburgh, January 2. 1702.

THE which Day, the Lord Provost, Baillies, Council, and Deacons of Crafts, Ordinary and Extraordinary, being conveened in Council, the better to suppress the growing Sin of Uncleanness, which so much abounds, notwithstanding of the many good Laws made against the same, *Statute and Ordain*, That the following Instructions be given to the Treasurers at their successive Elections yearly, *viz.* That he shall not compone for, nor give down to Persons guilty of the Sin of Uncleanness, (at least such as are convict thereof before the Kirk-sessions) any of the Fines imposed by Law, but that he shall be obliged to hold count therefore, to the Effect the same may
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be applied in the Terms of the Acts of Parliament; And for that End, they recommend to the Kirk-sessions to insert, particularly in their Books, the Quality of the Delinquents, and Degree of the Faults, for which they are convened, that the Quantity of the Fine may appear, and be a Charge upon the Kirk-Treasurer: For which it is hereby declared, he shall be answerable, except in so far as he shall discharge himself by instructing, that he has given down of the legal Penalty, with Consent of the Magistrates, or Session of the Bounds; or if the Persons guilty be poor, that he has given them up to be corporally punished according to Law, and that to the Effect scandalous Persons may not, upon the Pretence of Poverty, escape both pecunial and corporal Punishment: As also, that the Kirk-Treasurer put up timeously for the Gift of the single Escheat of Persons guilty of Adultery, for the Use of the Poor of the Place: Whereanent these Presents shall be a Warrant.



THE ACT ANENT SUPPRESSING IMMORALITIES, TO BE READ EVERY COUNCIL DAY, AFTER WHITSUNDAY AND MARTINMASS.

ACT anent suppressing *Immoralities*, to be read every Council Day, after *Whitsunday* and *Martin-* *mass*.

Edinburgh, December 4. 1702.

TH E which Day, the Lord Provost, Baillies, Council and Deacons of Crafts, considering the great Growth of Immoralities of all Sorts within this City and Suburbs, and the fearful Rebukes of God, by a dreadful Fire in the *Parliament-Closs*, *Kirk-heugh*, and *Cowgate*, which happened about Mid-Night, upon the 3d of *February* 1700, and which is recorded in the Council-Books, with their Christian Sentiments thereanent, upon the 24th of *April* thereafter.

As also remembering the terrible Fire which happened on the North-side of the *Lawn-Market*, about Mid-day, upon the
Twenty

Twenty eight of *October* 1701, wherein several Men and Women, and Children were consumed in the Flames, and lost by the Fall of ruinous Walls : And further considering, that most tremendous and terrible blowing up of Gun-powder in *Leith*, upon the 3. of *July* last, wherein sundry Persons were lost, and wonderful Ruins made in the Place ; And likewise reflecting upon other Tokens of G^OD's Wrath, lately come upon us, and what we are more and more threatned with, being moved with the Zeal of G^OD, and the Tyes he hath laid on us, and that we have taken upon our selves to appear for him in our several Stations, do in the L^OR^D's Strength, resolve to be more watchful over our Hearts and Ways than formerly ; And each of us, in our several Capacities, to reprove Vice with that due Zeal and Prudence, as we shall have Occasion, and to endeavour to promote the vigorous Execution of those good Laws made for suppressing of Vice, and punishing of the vicious. And the Council appoints this their solemn Resolution to be recorded, and the Clerks to read, or move the Reading thereof in the Council, every first Council Day after *Whitsunday* and *Martinmas* yearly, as a lasting and

humbling Memorial of the said Three dreadful Fires; and that under the Penalty of Twenty Merks Scots; *toties quoties*: And recommends to the Deacons of Crafts, Captain Commodant of the Town Companies, Constables, and Merchants of the Merchant Society, to move making of the like Resolution, in their respective Corporations and Societies, and to record the same in their Books.

A C T against Landlords Setting of Houses, &c. to Strangers without Testificates.

Edinburgh, March 2. 1703.

THE which Day, the Lord Provost, Baillies, Council and Deacons of Crafts being convened in Council, considering, That the Number of Vagabonds, Beggars, poor and idle Persons, have of late increased in this Place, whose Maintenance

is a heavy Burden to the Good Town, and who are the very Source and Nursery of Thieving, Stealing, breaking of Shops and Houses, and other gross Abuses and Immoralities, and that the Number of these idle and indigent Persons will still multiply, by Reason of their resorting from all Quarters of the Kingdom to this Burgh, except due Care be taken to prevent the samen, especially by denying them kindly Reception and Harbour: Therefore they strictly prohibit all Heritors, Landlords, and others within this Burgh, or Suburbs thereof, to see Houses, Chambers, Shops or Cellars to any Strangers coming to this Place in Time coming, or who have come to the same since *Whitsunday* 1700, who are also hereby reputed to be Strangers, who have not sufficient Testimonials to be approven by the Magistrates or Kirk-sessions, of their honest and good Behaviour; and bearing, that they have sufficient Means of their own, or lawful Callings to maintain them; at least, that they have in the Places from whence they came lived virtuously, without being burdensome to others, or making any unlawful Shifts for their Livelihood, and that under the Penalty of Twelve Pounds *Scots* Money, to be paid by the Landlords, or others

others, to the Kirk-Treasurer for the Use of the poor, so soon as it shall be proven against them before a Magistrate, that they have set any Houses, or others above express, to such Persons wanting Testimonials in the Terms aforesaid: As also, If any Heritor or Landlord shall set any Houses, and others aforesaid, to Strangers without Testificates, as said is, that the said Heritor or Landlord, shall be liable for Payment of the Annuity, in Case his Tenant through Poverty shall not be able to do the samen, and that by and attour the Penalty aforesaid; reserving to them their Relief from their Tenants in both Cases, and this Act without Prejudice to the exacting the Pains contained in the former Acts against Vagabonds, and Persons wanting Testimonials, from such Persons themselves. And also hereby strictly discharge all Masters or Mistresses of Families to hire Servants who have not sufficient Testimonials as aforesaid, under the Penalty of three Pounds Scots, to be paid to the Kirk-Treasurer for the Use aforesaid, by the Master or Mistresses so hiring their Servants. And appoints thir Precepts to be printed and published in the usual Manner.

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A C T against Drinking in Taverns after Ten of the Clock at Night.

Edinburgh, April 5. 1704.

THE whilk Day the Lord Provost, Baillics, Council and Deacons of Crafts, considering that the frequenting of Taverns, and remaining therein at unseasonable Hours in the Night, doth not only corrupt the Youth of this City, but hath also pernicious Influence upon debauching all Ranks of Persons resorting thereto; And albeit many good and excellent Laws have been already made for restraining of the said Vice, yet the same hitherto have not had the desired Success; and that partly through the Obstinacy of the Offenders, and partly through the not putting the Laws and Acts already made to a vigorous Execution, by which Means Vertue and Piety are under a great Decay; and all manner of Scandals and Immoralities do
daily

daily abound. *Therefore* the said Lord Provost, Baillies, Council and Deacons of Crafts do hereby strictly Prohibite and Discharge all the Inhabitants of this Burgh, and others repairing thereto, to abide in Taverns and other publick Houses after Ten a Clock at Night, conform to the former Acts, and that under the Penalties therein contained. Certifying also all Taverners and Keepers of publick Houses within this City, who shall Harbour and Reset any Person or Persons after the Time prescribed by the said Laws, they shall be proceeded against with all Rigor; And to the End these Presents may have a due Effect, the said Lord Provost, Baillies, Council and Deacons of Crafts, do Command and Charge, all Constables and others within their respective Bounds, to see the Execution hereof, as they will be answerable thereanent. And in like manner, the Captains of the Town Guard are commanded to cause the Soldiers that nightly go the Rounds after Ten at Night, to observe if they find Lights and Companies drinking in Taverns after the said Hour, and delate these Houses and others, together with such Persons as they find drunk upon the Streets, to the Magistrates the next Day, to the End that unorderly Houses and Persons may

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be discovered, and brought to condign Punishment. And ordains these Presents to be Printed and Published in common Form, that none may pretend Ignorance.

A C T against Burgesses
guilty of *Adultery*, and
Trilapse in Fornication.

Edinburgh, April 12. 1704.

THe which Day, the Lord Provost, Bail-
lies, Council, and Deacons of Crafts,
Ordinary and Extraordinary, being con-
vened in Council, taking to Considerati-
on, how much the Horrid and Abominable
Sins of Adultery and Fornication do abound
in this City, which is like to draw down
Wrath upon this Place, if GOD in his in-
finite Mercy do not avert; Do therefore
declare, that they are resolved to put the
Acts of Parliament against these abominable
Sins, to strict and vigorous Execution; And
farther, for the more effectual Restraining
and

and Punishing thereof, do hereby Enact, Statute and Ordain, That for hereafter, the Persons guilty of the said Sins, shall not only be Fined and Punished, according to the several Acts of Parliament thereanent, but also, That all Burgeses convict of Adultery, or Trilapse in Fornication, shall from that Time lose their Privilege of Burgess in this Burgh and Suburbs, and thereupon their Burges-Tickets is declared void and null to all Intents and Purposes, and they declared incapable of being re-admitted, until they produce sufficient Evidence of their having removed the said Scandals in an orderly Way, according to the Acts and Practice of this Church, and have paid the Civil Penalties; And likewise, if any shall be delated for the said horrid Sins of Adultery, or Trilapse in Fornication, and prove contumacious, and refuse to compare and purge the said Scandal in an orderly Way, that Person is to lose his Privilege as Burgess of this City, as said is; But upon Production of a Certificate of their having been again received to the Church, and having paid the Civil Penalties, they may be admitted to their former Privileges, and have a new Burges-Ticket, upon their paying the usual Dues exacted of each Burgess at their first Ad-

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Admission. And *lastly*, Appoints these Presents to be Published and Printed, that none may pretend Ignorance.



ACT against Playing at Cards, and Dice, &c.

Edinburgh, April 12. 1704.

THe which Day, the Lord Provost, Bailies, Council and Deacons of Crafts Ordinary and Extraordinary, being convened in Council, taking to their Consideration, That the Playing at Cards and Dice in Coffee-houses, Taverns, and other Publick or Common Houses, is found to be the Occasion of horrid Cursing, Swearing, Quarrelling, Strike, Contention, Covetousness, Tipling, Loss of Time, Neglect of necessary Business, and many other Inconveniencies, which hath ruined the Estates of many, and redacted them and their Families to Poverty; And finding that the said Unlawful Games of Cards and Dice, are prohibite and discharged by the Act *James VI. Parl. 23. Cap.*

14. Do therefore, according to that Act, Statute and Ordain, That no Person or Persons presume to play at Cards and Dice in any Coffee-house, Tavern, or other publick or common Houses within this City, or Privilege thereof, under the Penalty of Forty Pounds Scots, to be exacted off the Keepers of the said Houses, where the Transgression is found, for the first Fault; and the Loss of their Liberty for the next; And for the more strict Execution of the said Act, the Constables and others bearing Office, and holding their Places of the Good Town, are hereby appointed to delate such as they know to contravene this Act, under the Pain of being liable for the Fine themselves; and the Informer is to have the one half of the Fine, and these but Prejudice of exacting the other Fines contained in the said Act of Parliament, as Persons shall be found to transgress the same. And lastly, Appoints these Presents to be Published and Printed, that none pretend Ignorance.



ACT

(69)

**ACT for Reviving the
Kirk-Treasurers Instru-
ctions.**

Edinburgh, January 5. 1705.

THe which Day, the Lord Provost, Bail-
lies, Council and Deacons of Crafts be-
ing convened in Council, Considering their
Act of the Date the second of *January*, One
thousand seven hundred and two Years,
wherein there are several Instructions given
by the Council to the Kirk-Treasurer and
his Successors in Office, They of new Ratify
and Approve of the said Act and Instru-
ctions thereinmentioned: And Ordains the
Kirk-Treasurer in Time coming to observe
the same duly: And further, Do hereby
Prohibite and Discharge the Kirk-Treasurer,
and his Successors in Office in Time coming,
to make any Composition with Persons ir-
regularly married, without Consent of the
Magistrates for the Time, being previously
had

had and obtained thereto : And Ordains an Extract of thir Presents, with the other Act thereinmentioned to be given to the Clerk of the Kirk-Sessions ; And appoints him to read or move the Reading thereof in the Sessions yearly, after their Elections, whereanent these Presents shall be a Warrant.

ACT against Persons Excommunicate, Banished, or Fugitive.

At Edinburgh, June 22. 1709.

THE which Day, the Lord Provost, Bailies, Council and Deacons of Crafts being convened in Council, and taking to Consideration, that diverse Persons excommunicated by the Church, and others declared Fugitive from Church Discipline, and some banished by the Magistrates of this City, for gross Scandals and Crimes, do notwithstanding lurk in the said Burgh, and are not known by many of the Neighbourhood

to

to be in such Circumstances, but entertain'd by them to the great Prejudice of the Place, and debauching of others, to the Seandal of many : For the preventing whereof, it is hereby appointed, That the Names of all such Persons sentenced within this Burgh, be insert in a particular Book, to be kept for that Purpose by the Session-Clerk, with an Account of their Scandals and Crimes, and the other Clerks concerned are desired to give timeously an Account thereof to the said Session-Clerk, who is to take Care of recording the same ; And for the more easy finding thereof, it is ordained that he keep also an Alphabetical Index, and appoints the said Book to ly on the Table where the Sessions meet, and that any of the Neighbours may have Access thereto *gratis*, in order to the better Discovery of such scandalous Persons.



**A C T for suppressing and
preventing Immorality
and other Disorders, with
Instructions to Elders
and Deacons thereanent.**

Edinburgh, June 7. 1709.

THe General Meeting of the Kirk-sessions
of *Edinburgh*, taking to their serious
Consideration, the abounding of Profaneness
and Immorality in this City, to the great
Dishonour of God, and Reproach of our
holy Religion, notwithstanding of the good
Laws of the Land against the same, and
many Acts of the General Assembly, Town
Council and General Sessions, for preventing
and suppressing thereof: And finding, that
it hath pleased our Gracious Queen, to emit
Her Royal Proclamation for encouraging of
Piety and Vertue, and punishing Vice and
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Immorality; and that thereby Her Majesty hath strictly enjoyned, and required every one in their several Stations to do their Parts therein, as they will be answerable, for the ill Consequences of their Neglect in that Matter: This Meeting does hereby seriously recommend to all concerned in this City, to hold Hand to the Execution of the saids Acts of Parliament, General Assembly, and Town Council, ordained to be printed for that Effect. And in Order to the better Observation thereof, do appoint the Ruling Elders and Deacons of each Session, to visit the Families in their respective Bounds, at least once every half Year, and give an Account thereof to their own Ministers at their Meetings for Prayer, and Conference about the State of the Parish: And that the Report of the said Visiting after the Term of *Whitsunday*, be made to the respective Sessions before the first Day of *August*, and that the Report of their visiting after the Term of *Martinmas* be made the last Session Day of *December* at farthest: And the said General Meeting appoints the saids Elders and Deacons in their Visitations, to observe the following Rules and Instructions, *viz.*

scilicet 1. That they shall endeavour to visit all the Families in their respective Bounds, at least once every half Year, and give an Account thereof to their own Ministers at their Meetings for Prayer, and Conference about the State of the Parish: And that the Report of the said Visiting after the Term of *Whitsunday*, be made to the respective Sessions before the first Day of *August*, and that the Report of their visiting after the Term of *Martinmas* be made the last Session Day of *December* at farthest: And the said General Meeting appoints the saids Elders and Deacons in their Visitations, to observe the following Rules and Instructions, *viz.*

1. They are to take Notice of Houses of ill Report, that they be convict before the Session, and referred to the Magistrate.

2. That not only the Sin of Uncleanness be noticed, and delated, but also the Sins of Cursing, Swearing, Drunkenness, and Sabbath-breaking, that they may be censured and punished by the Civil Magistrate.

3. That special Notice be taken of Pensioners, and Information sought of their Personal Behaviour, and if they reset any scandalous and vagrant Persons, or Beggars, or be scandalous themselves, or be habitual Neglecters of attending Dyets of Catechising, and other Gospel Ordinances, that these who are guilty may be deprived of their Pension, and referred to the Magistrates to be punished.

4. That Testimonials be sought from Servants, and others, as well such as have removed from one Congregation to another within the City, (which may be had for twelve Pennies *Scots*) as from these that come from the Country, and that these who want Testimonials be desired to ask them from the Session of the Parish, where they did last reside, and that the Names of such as cannot, or will not produce their Testimonials, be given in to the respective Sessions, that they may

may be referred (if need be) to the Civil Magistrate for Punishment, according to the Act of the Town Council thereanent, dated the 2d of *March* 1703.

5. That special Care be taken to have Testimonials from Nurses and Women-Servants who rap Liquors, and that all Servants in Cellars that have been guilty of Uncleaness, though they have been Censured, and also their Masters or Mistresses, be de-lated, that they may be referred to the Civil Magistrate, and punished according to the Act of the Town Council, dated the 13. Day of *December* 1699.

6. That Enquiry be made by Elders and Deacons, if there be any Papists in their Bounds, and that a List with an Account of their Names and Circmmstances be taken up, and given in to the Session, for the Ends mentioned in the Acts of Assembly and Parliament, particularly the 3. Act of the Parliament held in the Year 1700, and also the 8. Act of the General Assembly *Anno* 1707.

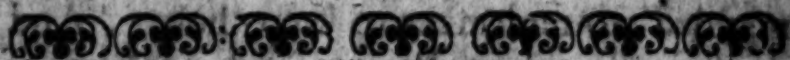
7. That Enquiry be made after Popish, and other Superstitious Customs, that Pains may be taken for suppressing thereof, where the samen are found.

8. That the Names of School-masters, Chaplains, Governours of Youth, and Pedagogues be taken up, and their Testimonials enquired anent, and reported to the Ministers and Session: And all Sessions are to be careful of visiting the Charity-School by Turns, and the Elders appointed by them for that Effect, are to get a particular Account, what Children are at the School belonging to the Congregation where they are concerned, and to enquire if they attend the School duly, and how they profit, and to make Report to their respective Sessions; and Elders and Deacons in visiting their Bounds, are to enquire who are not in Case to put their Children to School, and deal with them, to send them to the Charity-School.

9. That the Elders and Deacons delate such as are guilty of Irregular Marriages, and Baptisms, that both Ministers, Party and Witnesses, may be referred to the Civil Magistrate, to be punished according to Law.

10. That Pious and Worthy Persons, Elders and Deacons in this City, besides these who are on the Sessions, be dealt with to concur with, and assist the Members of the Sessions in the forementioned Particulars, and in taking Care of the Poor; especially collecting at the Church-doors, and that none be allowed to

to collect there, but those that have been Elders or Deacons, or such as shall be specially called and allowed by the Session; only it is hereby declared, that the Elders and Deacons called to assist (as said is) are not to sit and vote in Session, unless when called thereunto by the Session, in Case of the Death or Absence of any of their Members; and in order hereunto, each Session is to make up yearly a List of the Names of such Persons then residing in their Bounds.



ACT for the Observa- tion of the LORD's Day.

Edinburgh June 7. 1709.

THE General Meetings of the Kirk-Sessions of *Edinburgh*, taking to their serious Consideration, That the LORD's Day is profaned by Peoples standing on the Streets, and vaguing to Fields and Gardens, and to the *Castle-hill*; As also, by standing idle gazing out at Windows, and Children,

dren, Apprentices, and other Servants play-
 ing on the Streets, and other Places; and
 finding that there are diverse Acts of the
 Town-Council of this City, and General
 Sessions, for preventing the Profanation of
 the LORD'S Day, according to the Acts
 of Parliament and General Assembly; There-
 fore the General Sessions do resolve to see to
 the Execution of these good Acts, and do
 hereby warn all the Inhabitants of this
 City, that none of them presume to profane
 the LORD'S Day, which all are com-
 manded to remember to keep holy; And
 do seriously exhort Parents and Masters of
 Families to keep their Children and Servants
 within Doors upon that holy Day, and to
 take Care that all belonging them do sancti-
 fy the same, and punctually attend the pub-
 lick Worship of GOD, with Certification,
 that Notice will be taken of such as shall
 be found transgressing in the Premises, and
 they called before the Kirk-session and cen-
 sured for the same, and if they do not a-
 mend, they will be referred to the Civil
 Magistrate to be punished: And in order
 to the better Observation of the said Acts,
 not only is each Session to take their Turn
 in visiting the Streets in Time of publick
 Worship on the LORD'S Day, as hath been

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the laudable Custom of this City ; but also every Session is to take Care of visiting their own Parishes, and suspected Houses therein at other convenient Hours on the LORD'S Day, by an Elder and a Deacon by Turns, with a Beadle and Officer ; and likewise when the Day is long, that each Session go with their Beadles and Officers through the Streets after Sermons, for the Ends above-mentioned, and reprove such as they find transgressing ; and when Persons do not take with Reproof, and do not refrain from such Practices in Time coming, that they be complained of to the Session, in order to be censured, and referred to the Civil Magistrate to be punished, according to the Acts made thereanent : And Recommends to Sessions and Members thereof to hold Hand to the Execution of the Acts of the Town Council, dated the 9th of *August* 1693, and 28th of *February* 1701, for preventing the Profanation of the LORD'S Day ; And Ordains this Act to be read from the Pulpits of all the Churches of this City yearly the first Sabbath of *April*, that none may pretend Ignorance.

ACT

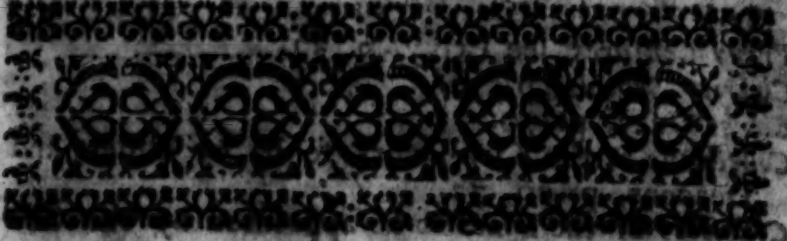
A C T anent the Meet- ing of the General Sessions Quarterly.

Edinburgh, June 7. 1709.

IT is agreed, That in Time coming the General Sessions, consisting of the Reverend Ministers, Elders, and Deacons of the Kirk-Sessions of *Edinburgh*, shall meet quarterly, upon the Days following *viz.* The first *Tuesdays* of *September, December, March* and *June* yearly, at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, within the Assembly-House, in the High Church of *Edinburgh*, and that at each General Meeting the several Sessions be enquired at, as to their Diligence in what is laid on them; and that it be the chief Work of the General Sessions, to enquire into these Things, and excite particular Sessions to their Duty, and that the Reverend Ministers moderate therein by Turns in the Order they were called to this City. And the Clerk is ordained to take Care, that all concerned be duly advertised of what is laid on them.
Extracted by

J. A. G. E. D. Sec. Cls.

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